Survey of Pollution in Uttar Pradesh

829. KUMARI ALIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey of pollution in Uttar Pradesh has been conducted;

(b) if so, the details of Districts and Cities where this survey was conducted;

(c) the cities and districts which were found to be adversely affected by air pollution;

(d) whether Faizabad District is one of the adversely polluted districts in Uttar Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the steps contemplated by Government to make Faizabad district free of air pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A survey of ambient air quality was conducted by the U.P. Pollution Control Board in the cities of Lucknow, Kanpur, Agra, Anpara and Dehra Dun in 1989.

(c) The survey reveals that sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen are well within the prescribed ambient air quality limits; the levels of suspended particulate matter are on the higher side, in all the cities survey except Anpara. This pollution is largely caused by natural dusty conditions.

(d) No ambient air quality survey has been conducted for Faizabad.

(e) Does not arise.

Progress of Social Forestry Programme

830. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched several programmes in order to encourage social forestry;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and the progress made under these programmes during the last three calender years;

(c) whether involvement of social workers and voluntary organizations in these programmes has also been ensured;

(d) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an incident of refusal of sappling/offered under these programmes by voluntary organizations at Kochi in Ernakulam District;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof and the circumstances under which such refusal had taken place; and

(f) what steps Government propose to take to stop discouragement to such social organizations and workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Afforestation and tree planting activities, which include Social forestry, are being undertaken under various Central and State Plan schemes. The progress of the last three years is given below:

	1987-88 (in million hectares)	1988-89 (in million hectares)
Targets . . .	1.79	2.00
Achievements . .	1.77	2.12

The target for 1989-90 is 1.71 million hectares, which is expected to be achieved.

(c) Voluntary organizations are being involved in Social forestry activities. Financial assistance is provided for this purpose under the Grants-in-aid scheme of the National Waste-

lands Development Board (NWDB), which was started in 1985-86. The Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) also provides financial support to voluntary organizations for rural development activities, including Social Forestry.

(d) and (e) Union Minister of State for Environment & Forest had refused to plant a sapling in front of the Town Hall at Kochi on 10th March, 1990, because the site selected for the purpose was very unsuitable and the seedling, if planted, would not have survived.

(f) Does not arise.

Increase in export of electronic items/ software

831. SHRI SAYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of electronic items and software is expected to increase in coming years as compared to past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to permit the existing units to increase their capacity to boost the trade;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government also propose to liberalise the existing norms for production of electronic items and software in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) and (b) Electronics export is expected to grow at the rate of 55 per cent per annum during the next three years as against the comulative annual growth rate of 40 per cent during 1985-90.

(c) and (d) As part of general industrial licensing policy, Government has permitted Registered/Licensed industrial undertaking to produce in excess of licensed or registered capacity provided such additional production is exported. In addition, to step-up export, Government has also extended the facility of one time permission to all industrial undertakings for manufacture of any scheduled item, for export, without obtaining separate industrial licence. These policies are equally applicable to electronic sector too.

(e) and (f) The existing policy framework for promotion and development of Electronics Sector in the country is quite broad. The electronics policy has been evolving continuously with new initiatives being taken from time to time to meet the requirements of changing situations. On an overall basis, the efforts are to liberalise the policy subject to aspects such as constraints on foreign exchange.

Inadequate Medical facilities in Research Institution

832. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report which appeared in the Indian Express of the 19th April, 1990 regarding lack of elementary safety measures, inadequate medical facilities etc. in research institutes in the country;

(b) whether Research Scholars have threatened to begin a nationwide agitation;

(c) if so, whether any steps are being taken to discuss the problem with a 14 member National Committee of Young Scientists and Research Fellows; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?